



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

JAN 19 2012

Mr. John Smelko
Manager, Environmental and Regulatory Compliance
Cabot Oil & Gas Corporation
Five Penn Center West, Suite 401
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15276

Dear Mr. Smelko:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) began a survey of homes in the Carter Road/Meshoppen Creek Road area of Dimock, Pennsylvania in late December 2011. The intent of this survey was to review residents' access to reliable sources of potable water and to obtain a more complete understanding of the existing well water data.

As discussed with you today, based on our survey, EPA intends to perform well water sampling at 61 homes in the Carter Road/Meshoppen Creek Road area to further assess the potential for exposure to hazardous substances present in those water wells. In addition, based on data currently available, EPA believes it is appropriate to ensure delivery of alternate water to four homes where well water presents a health concern. Please see the enclosed Action Memorandum.

As discussed during our phone conversation, EPA is offering Cabot Oil & Gas Corporation (Cabot) the opportunity to provide alternate water to the four affected homes while EPA undertakes additional sampling and continues to obtain and review available data. Should you agree to provide alternate water, EPA plans to memorialize that commitment in an administrative consent order between Cabot and EPA. We are also open to Cabot joining us during the sampling event to split samples with EPA. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) agreed to partner with us as we move forward with sampling.

Today, we have also requested that PADEP consider either taking the lead immediately for the coordination and oversight of Cabot in the provision of water to the four homes or taking over these responsibilities at some point in the future. We will advise you of the Commonwealth's response.



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Please let us know by close of business today (Thursday, January 19, 2012) whether Cabot will provide water to the four homes. If you choose to provide water or participate in sampling, we would also ask that you designate a point of contact to coordinate with our On-Scene Coordinator. Water deliveries will need to begin by 2:00 p.m., Friday, January 20, 2012. EPA staff will be available to inform you and your staff of the specific locations of the homes that are to receive water.

Please contact me at 215-814-2626 if you would like to discuss these actions further.

Sincerely,



William C. Early
Deputy Regional Administrator

Enclosure



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